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120 BOYLSTON STREET,  
BOSTON, 11,  
MASSACHUSETTS

June 10, 1924.

Charles F. Lummis, Esq.,  
200 East Avenue 43,  
Los Angeles, Cal.

Dear Lummis:

It was pleasant to have a word from you and to hear again of your interesting work. You seem always to be doing something that no one else could do, and this collection of the early Spanish songs of the Southwest must be most interesting. I shall be glad to compare them with the Spanish songs collected many years ago by my cousin, Nena Sturgis, whose mother was Spanish, and which she harmonized, and for which another cousin, William Blake, made the English singing version.

With kind regards, I am,

Sincerely,

*R. Clipston Sturgis*

Enc.  
S/F

June 25, 1924

Dear Sturgis,

Glad to hear from you, and glad of your subscription to my little Book of the Spanish Songs of Old California, which I have forwarded. I hope they will interest you, and that they may fit in well with the collection made by your cousin -- the which I must try to get hold of.

It has been a very beautiful pursuit through nearly forty years, tho' only within a year has there seemed any likelihood that I could make any of my collections available to the public, although I have over 500 of the Spanish Folksongs now recorded on my phonograph, as well as nearly 500 Indian songs in thirty-seven different languages.

But Eastern publishers were afraid to tackle any of them -- it hadn't been done, therefore it couldn't be done. So about a year ago I got a little angry and decided to begin publishing them myself. The result has fully justified my faith that there are still Americans who care for unspoiled simplicity and beauty. This First Book is already well up in its fourth thousand; and Farwell and I are now at work on the Second Book which will be out this Fall. I fancy the public will probably stand for three or four books, one a year -- and that will at least give us a little bouquet of the precious old ditties that are about all that is left of a civilization that was so beautiful and so romantic as that of California before the Gringo came.

I hope you will be coming over to the Coast one of these days -- it would be a very great pleasure to see you. Just at present I cannot see anything -- having been pegged with a tennis ball a month ago in the one eye left me -- for a cataract took the other a couple of years ago. But as I had a year and half of practice in blindman's buff in 1911 and '12, it is not as intolerable as it might be to a less fortunate person. Besides which, the kindest folks in the world administer unto me, and lead me where-

(over)

R.C.Sturgis:

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ever I need to go. I trust this handicap, however, may be dispensed with before very long.

With high regard and all good wishes,

Your Classmate and Friend

R. Clipston Sturgis,  
Boston, Mass.